

I. Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims shall replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1-37. (cancelled)

38. (currently amended): A method of effectively treating pain in humans, comprising orally administering to a human patient an oral dosage form ~~comprising two analgesic compounds and/or pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof~~ consisting of (i) nimesulide and/or at least one pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; ~~and~~ (ii) oxycodone and/or at least one pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and (iii) at least one pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

39-46. (Cancelled)

47. (currently amended): The method of claim 38, wherein the ratio of oxycodone and/or at least one pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof to nimesulide and/or at least one pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof is from about 0.0001:1 to about 1:1.

48. (previously presented): The method of claim 38, wherein the oxycodone is present in the pharmaceutically acceptable salt form.

49. (currently amended): The method of claim 38, wherein the ~~dosage form further comprises~~ the at least one pharmaceutically acceptable excipient is a sustained release carrier which provides a sustained release of the oxycodone and/or at least one pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

50. (currently amended): The method of claim 38, wherein the ~~dosage form further comprises the at least one pharmaceutically acceptable excipient~~ is a sustained release carrier which provides a sustained release of the nimesulide and/or at least one pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; and oxycodone and/or at least one pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

51. (currently amended): The method of claim 38, wherein the nimesulide ~~and/or~~ at least one pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof is present in an amount from about 0.5 mg to about 1500 mg.

52. (currently amended): The method of claim 51, wherein the nimesulide ~~and/or~~ at least one pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof is present in an amount of 100 mg.

53. (currently amended): The method of any of claims 38, 47 or 49-52, wherein the ~~analgesic compounds comprise oxycodone~~ in an amount of the oxycodone or at least one pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof in the dosage form is from 2.5 mg to 800 mg.

54. (new): A method of effectively treating pain in humans, comprising orally administering to a human patient an oral dosage form consisting of (i) nimesulide or at least one pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof in an immediate release form; (ii) oxycodone or at least one pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof in a sustained release form; and (iii) and at least one pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

55. (new): The method of claim 54, wherein the sustained release form consists essentially of the oxycodone in an amount of about 2.5 mg to 800 mg and a sustained release carrier in an amount such that said oral dosage form provides a therapeutic effect of the oxycodone for at least 12 hours or longer.

56. (new): The method of claim 55, wherein said sustained release carrier is selected from the group consisting of an alkylcellulose; a hydroxyalkylcellulose; an acrylic polymer; a fatty acid; a fatty alcohol; a glyceryl ester of fatty acids; a mineral oil or wax; a vegetable oil or wax; a polyalkylene glycol; shellac; zein; and mixtures of any of the foregoing.

57. (new): The method of claim 54, wherein said pain is cancer pain, post-surgical pain, low back and neck pain, dysmenorrhea, headache, toothache, pain from sprains and strains, myositis, neuralgia, synovitis, arthritis, degenerative joint diseases, gout, ankylosing spondylitis, bursitis, burns, injuries, influenza or other viral infections, and common cold.

58. (new): The method of claim 54, wherein said dosage form comprises particles, wherein said particles have diameter from about 0.1 mm to about 2.5 mm.

59. (new): The method of claim 58, wherein said particles have diameter from about 0.5 mm to about 2 mm.

60. (new): The method of claim 54, wherein the nimesulide is coated onto a tablet comprising the oxycodone in the sustained release form.

61. (new): The method of claim 55, wherein said sustained release carrier being (i) a sustained release coating; or (ii) incorporated into a matrix with said oxycodone.

62. (new): The method of claim 54, wherein said oral dosage form provides a therapeutic effect of said oxycodone for about 24 hours.

63. (new): A method of effectively treating pain in humans, comprising orally administering to a human patient an oral dosage form consisting of (i) nimesulide and at least one pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; (ii) oxycodone and at least one pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; and (iii) at least one pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

64. (new): The method of claim 63, wherein the ratio of oxycodone and at least one pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof to nimesulide and at least one pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof is from about 0.0001:1 to about 1:1.

65. (new): The method of claim 63, wherein the at least one pharmaceutically acceptable excipient is a sustained release carrier which provides a sustained release of the oxycodone and at least one pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

66. (new): The method of claim 63, wherein the at least one pharmaceutically acceptable excipient provides a sustained release of the nimesulide and at least one pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

67. (new): The method of claim 63, wherein said pain is cancer pain, post-surgical pain, low back and neck pain, dysmenorrheal, headache, toothache, pain from sprains and strains, myositis, neuralgia, synovitis, arthritis, degenerative joint diseases, gout, ankylosing spondylitis, bursitis, burns, injuries, influenza or other viral infections, and common cold.

68. (new): The method of claim 38, wherein said pain is cancer pain, post-surgical pain, low back and neck pain, dysmenorrheal, headache, toothache, pain from sprains and strains, myositis, neuralgia, synovitis, arthritis, degenerative joint diseases, gout, ankylosing spondylitis, bursitis, burns, injuries, influenza or other viral infections, and common cold